

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please add the following paragraphs on page 3, line 26 of the specification:

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, the chimney block may be welded to an upper plate of the outer tread passage to provide the narrow strip of the lower layer in the outer tread without smearing.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, the protrusion may have a flow splitting tapered end at the upstream side and tapered walls from the upstream side to the downstream side of the chimney block to divert the flow of the outer tread around the chimney block.